

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20 EB-11

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 PC-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 L-03 IGA-02 /197 W

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R 261550Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9271

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0354

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FL, US,

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT STEVENS EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AID CUTS

1. I WAS SUMMONED TO STATE HOUSE THIS MORNING BY PRESIDENT STEVENS WHO SAID THE CABINET HAD ASKED HIM TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT "OVER THE CUTS IN AID TO AFRICA". HE SAID THAT SIERRA LEONE WAS MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE U.S. ASSISTANCE GRANTED TO SIERRA LEONE IN THE PAST AND THAT WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THIS COULD NOT GO ON FOREVER, SIERRA LEONE "WAS NOT YET READY TO WALK BY ITSELF" AND CONTINUED TO NEED HELP AND HIS GOVERNMENT THEREFORE WAS HOPEFUL THAT A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO CONTINUE U.S. ASSISTANCE.

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2. I REPLIED THAT I UNDERSTOOD HIS CONCERN AND PRE-

SUMED HE WAS REFERRING TO THE FAILURE OF THE HOUSE TO PASS THE IDA IV REPLENISHMENT. I INFORMED HIM OF THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRY AND CONGRESS ROLE; THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARAB OIL BLOCKADE WHILE THE U.S.G. WAS DEVOTING ALL EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS WELL AS THE WIDESPREAD FEAR THE MONEY PROGRAMMED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH THE PRESENT QUADRUPLLED OIL PRICES WOULD NOT ASSIST DEVELOPMENT BUT END UP IN THE POCKETS OF THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS I REASSURED HIM, THE ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUED DEVELOPING AID AND DID NOT INTEND TO LET THE HOUSE VOTE STAND ON THE IDA REPLENISHMENT. I READ HIM QUOTES FROM THE REMARKS OF SECRETARIES KISSINGER AND SHULTZ ON THIS SUBJECT. I THEN OUTLINED THE AID \$148.3 MILLION FY 1974 FORMULATION FOR AFRICA, ADDING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES AS PEACE CORPS, PL 480 TITLE II, AND SELF-HELP WOULD CONTINUE BASICALLY AS BEFORE IN SIERRA LEONE WITH A SLIGHT INCREASE IN SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR FY 1974.

3. THE PRESIDENT SEEMED SATISFIED AND RELIEVED WITH MY CLARIFYING REMARKS. IN PARTING HE COMMENTED ON HIS PLEASURE THAT "RELATIONS BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED TO GET BETTER AND BETTER".
OLSON

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Message Attributes

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